



# COMMUNICATION UPDATE

## READY FOR REVIEW:

CSPPS project to support Civil Society engagement in FCAS-countries going for 2019 Voluntary National Review

March 2019



## BACKGROUND

**HLPF 2019** – The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the main United Nations platform on sustainable development and it has a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at global level. It takes place every year in New York in July.

**VNR Process** – The HPLF is an opportunity for member states to report on a voluntary basis on the progress achieved to implement the SDGs at the national and sub-national levels, through a government-led and inclusive review, called a Voluntary National Review (VNR). Regular reviews by the HPLF are to be voluntary, state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and involve multiple stakeholders, including civil society. VNRs aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences , including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs.

**What is at stake in 2019** – The theme of the HPLF in 2019 is “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”. For the first time since the creation of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, SDG 16 is going for a detailed review in July 2019, among a group of other SDGs (namely Goals 4, 8, 10, 13 and 17). SDG 16 seeks to promote peaceful, just and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

\*This Communication Update is a living document which will keep recipients informed on a monthly basis of the progress achieved by CSPPS and partners on the Ready for Review project.

# COLLABORATION BETWEEN CSPPS, EU/DEVCO, AND MEAE

The Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (**CSPPS**) is a global network of civil society actors, experts and academics from the South and the North who work together to support peacebuilding and statebuilding projects in fragile situations. CSPPS enjoys the support of the EU Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (**DEVCO**) to implement its workplan in 2019-2020.

On 1 January 2019, CSPPS embarked on a one-year collaboration with the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (**MEAE**) to enable CSPPS to sustain and expand its work to amplify the voice of civil society within the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS), and to operationalise the Ministry's holistic approach to addressing crises and fragilities. More specifically, with the support of the MEAE and DEVCO, CSPPS will ensure the meaningful inclusion, participation and contribution of civil society during VNR processes – with a focus on SDG 16+ – within a group of selected countries, namely Côte d'Ivoire, the Central African Republic, Chad, Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste.



# ROADMAP

## TIMELINE – 2019



## OBJECTIVE AND ACTIVITIES

Since the submission of the first project proposal to the MEAE (in December 2018), and in accordance with the latest developments since January 2019, CSPPS has slightly adapted its proposed objectives and planned activities to ensure a more effective and tailored approach to the national contexts in which the CSOs it supports are operating. The general objective remains the same : *to strengthen the voice and capacity of civil society to effectively engage in, and influence, peacebuilding and statebuilding as a critical contribution to crisis prevention and sustainable peace and development for all.*

At the Secretariat level in Europe, the support provided will help the Platform implement its workplan and initiate contact with French NGOs (Coordination SUD and FORUS) and relevant sections of the MEAE (AFD, CIV, Expertise France) with a view to exploring collaboration opportunities. At the country level on the ground, the support provided will enable CSPPS to ensure – to the extent possible depending on the political context – with the help of the TAP Network the meaningful inclusion, participation and contribution of national and local CSOs (including through targeted outreach to involve youth- and women-led organisations) during the consultation and validation stages of the VNR process in Côte d’Ivoire, the Central African Republic, Chad, Sierra Leone, and Timor-Leste through nationally-held orientation and sensitization workshops and capacity development workshops. CSPPS is also planning to expand its collaboration with the TAP Network in Nigeria, Rwanda, and Ghana. Subsequently, both during and after the HLPF, CSPPS will organise a peer-to-peer exchange to reflect upon the VNR experiences of CSO representatives involved.

# CURRENT STATE OF PLAY: COUNTRY UPDATES 1/2

## CÔTE D'IVOIRE



The government of Côte d'Ivoire held a multi-stakeholder working session on 15/01 to inform participants of its VNR plans. In follow-up to a group call held with CSPPS Focal Point, UNDP – Côte d'Ivoire, Global Alliance and ISC/ODD-CI on 5/02, CSPPS and the Civil Society Initiative for SDGs in Côte d'Ivoire (ISC/ODD-CI) are currently finalizing a concept note and budget indication to carry out two inclusive sensitization and orientation workshops in April, one in Abidjan and one in Bouaké.

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



On 26-27/02, the CSPPS Secretariat facilitated an SDG and VNR orientation and sensitization workshop in Bangui for CSPPS and CORDAID civil society country teams. CSPPS Secretariat also met with UNDP, EU and France delegations. The Ministry of Planning, in the person of the Secretary of the SDG Committee in CAR, shared its VNR roadmap on 28/02. CSPPS, TAP Network, CORDAID and World Vision are currently finalizing a collaboration trajectory and will meet soon with Ministry of Planning.

## CHAD



On 12/02, CSPPS Focal Point met with UNDP – Chad and other civil society representatives to discuss government plans for the VNR process. Data collection by UNDP consultants is underway. The Chadian government has yet to release its VNR roadmap. On 6/03, CSPPS Secretariat and CSPPS Focal Point are working together on a concept note for an SDG and VNR multi-stakeholder orientation and sensitization workshop planned for early April in N'Djamena.

## CURRENT STATE OF PLAY: COUNTRY UPDATES 2/2

### Bangui Workshop, 26-27 Feb 2019

CAR CSPPS Focal Point gives an overview to CSO representatives of the work accomplished so far by the SDG and RCPCA Alignment Inter-Ministry Committee, and its VNR consultation plans for the months to come.



### SIERRA LEONE



CSPPS is partnering with the TAP Network to support ChildHelp Sierra Leone in organising a workshop around VNR and Goal 16 of the SDGs. This 2-day orientation and capacity building workshop for local and national CSOs in Freetown is planned for April. CSPPS Secretariat is to ensure in-country coordination linkages are in place between local networks, country teams and focal point organisations.

### TIMOR-LESTE



CSPPS Focal Point organisation has been involved in the government-led SDG Working Group as a permanent member. CSPPS and TAP are planning to co-organise workshop in Timor-Leste. CSPPS Focal Point Organisation to detail in a concept note the remaining challenges national CSOs are currently facing to be able to participate and effectively contribute to the VNR process, and Secretariat will tailor its support according to the CN's content.

# ORGANISATIONS WE ARE WORKING WITH

<p><b>The Transparency, Accountability and Participation Network (TAP Network)</b></p> <p><b>The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)</b></p> <p><b>The Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid (CORDAID)</b></p> <p><b>World Vision</b></p> <p><b>FriEnt</b></p>	<p><b>Search for Common Ground</b></p> <p><b>United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY)</b></p> <p><b>Partners for Review</b></p> <p><b>UNDP / The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies</b></p>
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## THIS WORK IS SUPPORTED BY

